



Good News from Parks and Recreation October 2013

Parks and Recreation website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

Trail and Bikeway Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

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<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/>

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Recreation and Special Events

Senior Fall Special Event Schedule

- Evergreen Senior Center - 5830 Grand Ave
 - AARP Defensive Driving Classes
 - 1st Time class (2 days) November 13 and 14 (Wed & Thurs 5-9 pm)
 - Refreshers: November-Tuesday 19th, 1-5 pm
December- Tuesday 17th, 1-5 pm
 - Bingo- Thursdays at 12:30 pm
- Portman Senior Center - 4601 McCulloch St
 - AARP Defensive Driving Classes
 - 1st Time class (2 days) November 6 and 7 (Wed & Thurs 1-5 pm)
 - Refreshers: November- Thursday 21st, 1-5 pm
December- Thursday 19th, 1-5 pm
 - Bingo-Mondays and Fridays at 12:30 pm

Mark your calendar Holiday Banquet and Bentleyville Tour of Lights: December 10 at the DECC; cost \$16.00; details will be available soon.

Halloween Skating Party at Heritage Sports Center

Free skating at the **Duluth Heritage Sports Center** has never been more fun--- OR more Scary! Come for the **City of Duluth's regularly scheduled Free Family Skate** on October 30th from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm and have a bunch more fun than the usual weekly Open Skates on Wednesdays, throughout the year.

Games, treats, face-painting and spOOky surroundings will make this the perfect time to 'get your Halloween on'! A costume parade will kick 'things' off, but the rest is in the hands of YOUR fate. The **Goldberg Boys and Girls Club** and the **Duluth Children's Museum** will be adding special LIVE characters (or so they'll seem....) and foggy, squishy science demonstrations for an extra, *chillllllling* touch.....

100 Year Birthday Party!

The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division is celebrating those who turn 100 years or older in 2013 at the annual 100 Year Birthday Party Celebration. This event will be held on October 23rd at 10:00 am during the "Senior Expo" at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC). The public is invited to attend. Each honoree will be acknowledged by the City with a special certificate, a short biography, and birthday cake. For more information on this event and other Senior Programs, call 218-730-4306.

Visit Hawk Ridge this fall

The mission of the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory is to protect birds of prey and other migratory birds in the Western Lake Superior Region through research, education, and stewardship. The Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, located in Duluth, MN, provides some of North America's best autumn hawk watching. Fall is their busiest season. Naturalist staff and volunteers are on site daily from September 1 – October 31, 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Parks and Recreation Heritage Fall Skating

The fall Parks and Recreation sponsored skating sessions held at the Heritage Sports Center have begun! Skating will be held from 6:30-8:00 PM every week until the end of May. The Heritage Sports Center is located at 120 South 30th Avenue West. These sessions are free and open to the public for pleasure skating. Please bring your own skates.

Lester River Rendezvous was held on Sunday, September 29th

The 14th annual Lester River Rendezvous was held on Sunday, September 29th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (rained on Saturday). This community event was held in beautiful Lester Park located at 61st Avenue East and Superior Street. The Lester River Rendezvous featured over 50 food and craft vendors, live music, and engaging activities for kids and adults throughout the park all day

long. The Lester River Rendezvous also featured the “Voyageur Village”, a Northern Minnesota camp from the late 18th century. Local re-enactors dressed as voyageurs portraying life and adventures during the fur trading era. Muskets and cannon fire were a common sound in the park on Sunday. If you didn’t make it this year, put it on your calendar for next year!

Parents and Pre-school Children Invited to Participate in Play Gym at Duluth Heights

Play Time is an unstructured, rain-or-shine play opportunity for pre-school children and their parents to get together at one large location with an on-site store of toys and social opportunities!

Location: Duluth Heights Community Center at 33 Mulberry St

Dates: Wednesdays

Time: 9:30 AM – 12 Noon

Cost: Free

Contact: Pamela at 730-4388 for more information

Administration

City of Duluth Prepares for Emerald Ash Borer

The City of Duluth is preparing for the arrival of Emerald Ash Borer now that it has been found in the City of Superior. This devastating insect pest can cause millions of dollars of damage to our community trees and forests. In Minnesota, EAB has been found in the metro and southeastern sections of the state.

Now with confirmation of EAB across the river from us, the plans are:

- City staff have completed a street tree inventory and know the locations of our 4,500 boulevard ash trees
- Parks and Forestry staff have been trained to detect EAB and have been diligent in searching for EAB
- The City of Duluth has an EAB Management Plan in place, which includes working alongside the City of Superior to slow the spread of this pest
- The City of Duluth will be working with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to provide training and educational opportunities for the general public to help identify and treat this pest

Residents are encouraged to learn the signs and symptoms of EAB. The City will offer training to the public regarding the identification and treatment of this pest.

Property owners who are concerned about trees on private property should take these measures:

- Contact the University Minnesota Extension Service for more information on EAB <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.aspx>
- Consult a professional arborist for expert advice
- Consider planning different species of trees that are not susceptible to EAB

Citizen Report: Adopt a Beach Clean Up Indicates Less Trash on Lakewalk

There is less trash along the Lakewalk according to the Adopt a Beach Coordinator. A noticeable drop in cigarettes along the Lakewalk was recognized by volunteers of the annual Adopt a Beach cleanup. This is in part due to new no-smoking regulations and other clean up groups picking up trash during the summer.

Park Point residents, visitors asked not to feed wild foxes

Residents and visitors of Duluth's Park Point are asked not to feed the wild foxes that have become a more common sight in that area in recent months, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said. DNR wildlife managers are receiving increasing numbers of calls from area residents concerned about habituated foxes approaching people and homes. A city ordinance prohibits feeding deer and bears, but not other wildlife specifically. Despite the absence of a City ban on feeding wild animals, wildlife managers advise against the practice. "Feeding wildlife may appear harmless, but it leads to a number of problems for the animal and can create conflicts with your neighbors who may not be comfortable having wildlife close to their children, pets and homes," said DNR assistant wildlife manager, Martha Minchak. "We've received complaints of nearly tame foxes stepping over people on the beach, and attempting to follow people into their homes. Some people enjoy the interaction, but others are quite upset by it." Wild foxes are not generally considered a threat to people, but can be carriers of canine diseases such as mange, rabies, parvo virus and others that can spread to domesticated pets, livestock and people. Problems can be exacerbated when human-fed animals concentrate in feeding areas, or their population is unnaturally inflated by feeding. People can discourage foxes from frequenting their property by:

- Removing food sources such as pet food, from decks and other outdoor areas.
- Store trash indoors or in a shed or garage, until removal day.
- Haze or yell to frighten the animals and discourage them from returning.

As a general rule, the DNR does not provide trapping services to relocate nuisance animals. Habituated animals that have lost the ability to hunt for their own food are less likely to survive elsewhere, create similar problems in a new location, or interrupt other animal's home ranges. The best solution is to not create the problem by feeding wildlife.

Volunteer Events and Information

Buckthorn Brigade in Action this October and November

The City of Duluth invites Duluth residents to join in on the ongoing fight against the invasive shrub - Buckthorn. Buckthorn is a common invasive plant that is prevalent not only in City parks and on trails, but also in backyards and front lawns. Buckthorn was first introduced into our area in the early 1800's when it was used as a popular hedging plant. Now, it is *illegal* to import, sell, or transport *buckthorn* in *Minnesota*. Buckthorn poses a threat to other plants, provides a host to other pests, forms an impermeable layer of vegetation, and grows rapidly due to the lack of natural controls, such as insects and disease that would curb its growth.

“Once you learn how identify the shrub, you’ll begin to see it everywhere,” explained Steph Gibeau, Invasive Species Management Intern for the City of Duluth, who has been working on a Buckthorn Tracking Project in Hartley Park. “Buckthorn will remain dark green well into the fall, after all other trees turn color and lose their leaves. This makes the next six or seven weeks prime time for both identifying and removing the buckthorn from public areas,” Gibeau added.

The Buckthorn Brigade events are sponsored by the City of Duluth’s Duluth Invasive Species Council, organized by Duluth Parks and Recreation. Community members are invited to attend a public informational meeting to learn more about buckthorn identification and control methods on:

- **Thursday, October 24th** – *Informational Session* - 5-6 PM @ Hartley Nature Center - Meet at the Hartley Nature Center at 3001 Woodland Avenue

Duluth residents can assist in the removal and eradication of buckthorn during the Buckthorn Brigades on the following dates:

- **Sunday, October 27th** – 2-4 PM @ Lakewalk @ 21st
Meet at the parking lot located at 21st Ave E and Water Street
- **Saturday, November 9th** – 10 AM-12 PM @ Keene Creek
Meet near the Keene Creek Dog Park parking lot, located in West Duluth near Grand Avenue and I-35, accessible by a paved walkway to the fenced area.
- **Sunday, November 10th** – 2-4 PM @ Western Waterfront Trail
Meet at Indian Point Campground at 7000 Pulaski Street

Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information or to register as a family, an individual, or a group, contact Cheryl Skafe, Volunteer Coordinator, City of Duluth, at cskafe@duluthmn.gov or [218-393-9879](tel:218-393-9879).

Those seeking more information about Buckthorn and other non-native plants are encouraged to visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html>

Buckthorn Trackers Needed in Hartley Park

Help track the density of buckthorn in Hartley Park by becoming a Buckthorn Tracker. Volunteer Trackers will assist in the collection of data from Hartley to document the location, size, gender (if applicable), type and density of the buckthorn population throughout the park. The collection and documentation process includes:

- 1) navigating to data collection points (using handheld GPS units)
- 2) identifying and counting buckthorn growth
- 3) providing written documentation and inventory.

Volunteers should be able to work independently with limited supervision and be able to navigate across uneven landscapes (both on and off trail). Volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of 10 hours between August and November. For more information, contact Cheryl Skafe, Volunteer Coordinator, City of Duluth, at 218-730-4334 or cskafe@duluthmn.gov.

Volunteers Needed to Tip Roses at the Rose Garden

For the roses at the Rose Garden in Leif Erickson Park, cooler weather means one thing: It's time for bed.

Join City of Duluth staff and the Lake Superior Rose Society at our annual "tipping the roses" events, scheduled for the following dates:

- Saturday, October 19 from 9 am – noon
- Tuesday, October 22 from 3 pm - 6 pm

Whether you are experienced at the task or just want to learn, experts in the process will be there to teach volunteers. Previous knowledge is not required. This is an all ages, no experience needed event. Groups, families and individuals are invited to sign up. Dress for the weather, bring gloves and/or a shovel/garden fork (if you have them) and bottled water to stay hydrated. Tools and gloves will be provided to volunteers who do not have them.

Registration is encouraged in order for staff to prepare enough tools and equipment for participants. Contact Cheryl at 218-393-9879 or cskafte@duluthmn.gov to sign up.

Meet at the Rose Garden, near the bathroom facility. Free parking is located in the lot adjacent to the Rose Garden.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Fall Colors Are Spectacular on Duluth Trails

Duluth in the fall is one of the most spectacular times of the year. Bright colors of orange, red and yellow canopy the City. This year, enjoy the fall colors by taking a hike on any of our City trails.

Many City trails have been rated for distance or degree of difficulty to help you to identify a trail for your fitness and experience level. Trail maps are available at the trail head or can be printed by visiting the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation website located at http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_pages/trails_and_maps.cfm

Here is a brief overview of Duluth's recreational trail system:

Chester Park Trails: High above the central hillside of Duluth, in rocky and sometimes steep terrain, is one Duluth's most well-loved parks. Hiking trails following the contours of Chester Creek take you past graceful white pines, spectacular views of Lake Superior, tumbling waterfalls, and quiet, cedar-shaded pools.

Grassy Point Trail: Grassy Point is an area of over 100 acres of wetland and shallow open water habitat located in the St Louis River Estuary. Stroll along an accessible boardwalk while observing many species of migrating waterfowl and nesting birds.

Hartley Park Trails: A variety of scenic recreational trails nestled amidst 660 acres of forest hills and wetlands. These trails pass through beautiful forests with breathtaking views of Lake Superior.

Lakewalk: Take in the beauty of the lake and the fascinating lure of a working port as you walk the Lakewalk. Many places to visit lie along this 7.3 mile pathway that traces the shore of Lake Superior. The Lakewalk's newest addition at 60th Avenue East brings the trail to Brighton Beach.

Lester Park Trails: These trails are located in one of the City's oldest and most popular parks, Lester Park. The hiking trail runs up one side of the creek and down the other with old white pines along with cedar, spruce, aspen and birch. An extensive mountain bike trail system is also a part of the Lester Park Trails. Fall offers some great leaf-color views of the Lester River gorge and Lake Superior.

Lincoln Park Trails: Straddling Miller Creek, some trails are paved and wheelchair accessible (lower end) with dirt or limestone pathways elsewhere to allow one to amble alongside the creek or to several of the park's highlights.

Park Point Trail: A great place for bird watchers. This is a level but challenging 4 mile walk, mostly in the sand.

Piedmont Trails: This cross country ski trail leads you through aspen, birch and hardwood forest to a beautiful overlook of the St Louis River Valley. The Cyclists of Gitchee Gummie Shores (COGGS) recently established a premier set of mountain bike trails south of the ski trail system. This added several miles of high quality single-track mountain bike trails for all levels of expertise.

Western Waterfront Trail: This trail follows the scenic St Louis River; abound with waterfowl and marsh plants.

Take a Hike! On Duluth's City Trails

- Chester Park Trails - 1800 East Skyline Parkway
- Congdon Park Trails - 32nd Ave East and Superior Street
- Grassy Point Trail - end of Lesure Street
- Hartley Park Trails - 3001 Woodland Ave
- Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve - 4000 E Skyline Parkway
- Kingsbury Creek Trail - Dead end of Waseca Street
- Lakewalk - Canal Park to Brighton Beach
- Lester Park Trail - 60th Ave East and Superior Street
- Lincoln Park Trail - Lincoln Park Drive and West 3rd Street
- Magney-Snively Trail - 1/4 mi west 100 Ave West and Skyline Parkway
- Park Point Trail - end of Minnesota Ave
- Piedmont Trail - Adirondack and Hutchinson Rd
- Western Waterfront Trail - 7300 block off Grand Ave/Pulaski St

Mountain Biking in Duluth

Mountain biking in Duluth is a fun and challenging adventure. We currently have 30 miles of single-track biking in Duluth with trails located at Piedmont, Hartley Park, Brewer Park, Spirit Mountain, and Lester Park. Mont du Lac Recreation Area also has mountain bike trails. To download a mountain bike trail map go to the COGGS (Cyclists of Gitchee Gummi Shores) website at <http://www.coggs.com/trails.php>

Skateboard Park at Wheeler Field Athletic Complex

The skateboard park is open for use 7 days a week, weather permitting, until 10 pm. Skateboarders, in-line skaters, and bikers are all welcome. Indoor vending machines and bathrooms are available. Deck observation and seating area are also available.

Location: The skateboard park: 35th Avenue West and Grand Avenue. Skate ramps are also located at Gary New Duluth, Keene Creek Park, Midtown Park, and the Depot parking lot.

Disc Golf Course

People wanting to play disc golf can use the nine basket course at Miller Creek Disc Golf Course by Lake Superior College (2101 Trinity Rd) and a nine basket course at the Morgan Park Community Recreation Center (1242 88th Ave W).

Soccer Fields

Arlington --- 601 S Arlington Ave
Chester Bowl --- 1800 E Skyline Parkway
Duluth Heights --- 33 W Mulberry St
Irving --- 20 S 57th Ave W
Jean Duluth (Lake Park Fields) --- Riley & Jean Duluth
Park Point --- 45th St & Minnesota Ave
Piedmont --- 2302 W 23rd St
Rose --- Rose & Livingston St
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave

Softball Fields

Blackmer --- Beverly St & 84th Ave W
Chester Bowl --- 1800 E Skyline Parkway
Duluth Heights --- 33 W Mulberry St
Lafayette --- 3026 Minnesota Ave
Memorial --- 5315 Grand Ave
Merritt --- 4017 W 7th St
Norton Park --- Coleman & 81st Ave W
Park Point --- 45th St & Minnesota Ave
Piedmont --- 2302 W 23rd St
Portman --- 4601 McCulloch St
Wheeler --- 35th Ave W & Grand Ave
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave
Central Hillside --- Lake Ave & 4th St
Fond du Lac --- 131st Ave W & 5th St

Baseball Fields

Duluth Heights --- 33 W Mulberry St
Gary/Stowe --- 801- 101st Ave W
Como Park (Glen Avon) --- 2403 Woodland Ave
Wade Stadium --- 35th Ave W & 1st St
Wheeler #5 --- 35th Ave W & Grand Ave
Woodland ---3211 Allendale Ave

Basketball Courts

Gary New Duluth --- 801-101st Ave W
Grant --- 901 E 11th St
Harrison --- 3000 W 3rd St
Hillside Sport Center --- 408 E 8th St
Irving --- 20 S 57th Ave W
Lafayette --- 3026 Minnesota Ave
Lincoln Park --- 25th Ave W & 5th St
Memorial --- 5315 Grand Ave
Merritt --- 4017 W 7th St
Morgan Park --- 1242-88th Ave W
Norton Park --- Coleman & 81st Ave W
Observation --- 914 W 3rd St
Portman --- 4601 McCulloch St
Riverside --- 55 Cato St
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave

Tennis Courts

Endion --- 1602 E 2nd St
Fond du Lac --- 131st Ave W & 5th St
Harrison --- 3000 W 3rd St
Irving --- 20 S 57th Ave W
Keene Creek --- Bristol St & 63rd Ave W
Lafayette --- 3026 Minnesota Ave
Longview --- 326 N 25th Ave E
Wheeler --- 35th Ave W & Grand Ave
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave

Playgrounds

Bayfront Festival Park / Playfront Playground--- South 5th Ave W & RR St
Blackmer --- Beverly St & 84th Ave W
Cascade --- 6th St & 1st Ave W
Central Hillside --- Lake Ave & 4th St
Chester Bowl --- 1800 E Skyline Parkway
Duluth Heights --- 33 W Mulberry St

Endion --- 1602 E 2nd St
Fairmont --- 72nd Ave W & Grand
Fond du Lac --- 131st Ave W & 5th St
Franklin --- 12th St & Minnesota Ave
Grant --- 901 E 11th St
Grosvenor Square --- Pitt & 49th Ave E
Harrison --- 3002 W 3rd St
Hillside Sport Center --- 408 E 8th St
Irving --- 20 S 57th Ave W
Keene Creek --- Bristol St & 63rd Ave W
Lafayette --- 3026 Minnesota Ave
Lester --- 61st Ave E & Superior St
Lilliput --- 315 E 5th St
Lincoln --- 25th Ave W & 5th St
Memorial --- 5315 Grand Ave
Merritt --- 4017 W 7th St
Morgan Park --- 1242-88th Ave W
Norton Park --- Coleman & 81st Ave W
Observation --- 914 W 3rd St
Park Point --- 45th St & Minnesota Ave
Piedmont --- 2302 W 23rd St
Portland Square --- 4th St & 10th Ave E
Portman --- 4601 McCulloch St
Riverside --- 55 Cato St
Washington Square --- Superior St & 43rd Ave E
Wheeler Field --- 35th Ave W & Grand Ave
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave

Parks and Recreation can provide additional information concerning recreational activities, maps, and updated schedules for special activities by going to our website at www.duluthmn.gov/parks Where listed, please use the phone numbers or call the Parks and Recreation office at 218-730-4300.

Enjoy our fantastic parks, playgrounds, and outdoor spaces.